(b) whether the World Bank's recent report "Doing Business in 2007" which points out that India stood at a low of 173 of the 175 countries has been studied under the parameter of executing contracts;

(c) whether Government have constituted a committee to find out ways to improve delivery system and have also received its recommendations; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a), (c) and (d) The Working Group on "Integrated Smart Card System" constituted by the Planning Commission in March, 2006 in its Report submitted in January, 2007 has, *inter alia,* recommended that the Government may initiate steps for the introduction of Integrated Smart Card System for the major entitlement schemes. The Report of the Working Group is under examination.

(b) Yes, Sir. As regards enforcing contracts, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs has been set up to examine the issue pertaining to enforcing contracts and recommend corrective measures.

Postal Life Insurance Scheme

*13. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the loss of faith of common people in the Postal Life Insurance Scheme due to non-settlement of death claims;

(b) whether Government have received representations/request for settlement of policy series DL-34825-CS;

(c) if so, the reasons for non-settlement of the claims;

(d) by when these claims are likely to be settled to restore investor faith; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Death claims in respect of Postal Life Insurance Schemes are being settled timely as per rules.

(b) Yes. Department has received request for settlement in respect of this individual case.

(c) The case was rejected as the insurant had concealed vital information essentially required during the procurement of the Postal Life Insurance Policy. The claimant was informed accordingly.

(d) The case has already been decided as above on 13.8.2002 after detailed investigation into the cases.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

State Transport Ministers' Meet

* 14. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Transport Ministers of all States attended a meeting in New Delhi in the month of September , 2007 to discuss ways to ensure better inter-State connectivity;

(b) if so, what were the main proposals discussed;

(c) whether any final decision in implementing these agreements were also discussed; and

(d) to what extent all the State Governments have agreed to implement the suggestions taken in the meeting for better road connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Vizhinjam Port Project

*15. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the stage of the proposal for Vizhinjam Port Project in Trivandrum; and

(b) by when the work on this project is expected to start and by when its commercial operation is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Vizhinjam Port is a Non-Major Port. Non-Major Ports are under the overall jurisdiction of the respective State Governments. The responsibility for development of Vizhinjam Port, therefore, vests in the Government of Kerala.

New licencing policy for telecom operators

*16. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new policy with regard to the issuing of new licences to telecom operators and for the sale of Spectrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when the same is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to grant new Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences as per the existing policy. Selling/auction of 2G spectrum is not envisaged under telecom access services licences.

Waiver of bills of Faulty telephones by BSNL

*17. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL consumers have to pay their telephone bills despite their telephone connections remaining out of order for months together;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of provisions/guidelines/orders in this regard; and